

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN

17 April 1979

PM

The Iranian monitoring sites supplied us with various kinds of information on Soviet strategic missile programs, much of it connected with features that will be limited by the provisions of the SALT II Treaty. Regaining all of this monitoring capability (with or without the SALT II Agreement), will take until 1983 or 1984, depending upon how much we are able to accelerate programs already underway. Regaining enough of it to verify adequately Soviet compliance with the provisions of SALT II, I estimate will take about a year, again depending upon how fast we can carry out monitoring programs under development.

The principal information at issue is the nature and characteristics of new or modified Soviet ICBMS. Each such Soviet program will require about 20 flight tests over a period of years.

Though existing monitoring systems, or replacements for the Iranian sites, could well miss some flights, and might miss some data from some flights that they see our assessment of compliance would be made from the information we would collect over the whole test program for each missile, from a variety of monitoring systems. We expect to conclude a treaty that resolves satisfactorily the remaining provisions on verification and on new ICBMS. In that event it is my judgment that our monitoring will be such as to provide adequate verification as to Soviet compliance with the curbs on new or modified ICBMS.